

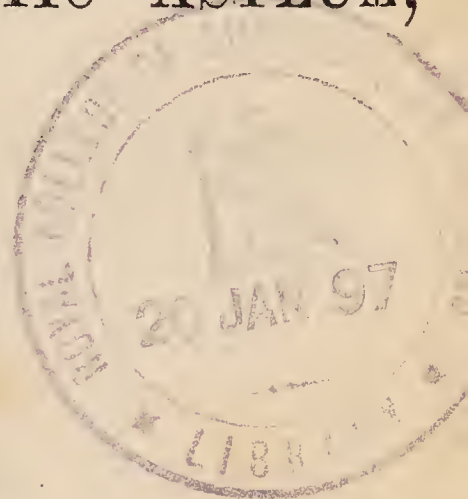
*the McClellans*  
*Compliment*  
**REPORT**

OF THE

**SUPERINTENDENT**

OF THE

**LANCASTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
RAINHILL.**



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INSTITUTED JANUARY 1, 1851.

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TO THE

# VISITING JUSTICES

OF THE

## LANCASTER COUNTY ASYLUM,

RAINHILL.

IN presenting the First Annual Report of this Asylum, it has been thought desirable to pursue the plan usually adopted by the Medical Officers of similar Institutions, and to give in a tabular form the results of treatment and general management, subjoining such remarks as may either be necessary to elucidate the Tables themselves, or be of interest as bearing on the subject of Insanity generally.

The following Table will show the number of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, which have occurred during the year:—

TABLE I.

	MEN.	WOMEN.	TOTAL.
Patients Admitted during the year .....	182	211	393
	MEN.	WOMEN.	TOTAL.
Discharged Recovered...	12	27	39
Ditto Improved ...	5	1	6
Ditto Unimproved	2	...	2
Escaped.....	1	...	1
Died .....	26	22	48
Total number Discharged, Escaped, and Died	46	50	96
Remaining in the Asylum, 1st January, 1852...	136	161	297
Average Number Resident during the year ....	94	124	222

From this return, we find that 393 Patients have been admitted, 47 have been discharged, 1 has escaped, and 48 have died. This shows a per centage of 11.9 of cures and 12.21 of deaths.

The per centage of discharges appears small as compared with the admissions; but when it is considered that, at the opening of the Asylum, a very large proportion of *incurable* cases was received from Haydock Lodge and other licensed houses, and that in all County Asylums there is necessarily a constant tendency to the accumulation of such, a diminution in the per centage of recoveries, and an increase in the per centage of deaths must be expected. The total number of cases received from Workhouses and Asylums was 222, of these

132 were from Haydock Lodge.		
8	„	Denbigh
14	„	Camberwell.
8	„	Kingsland.
14	„	Liverpool.
And 46	„	Workhouses.

It would naturally be supposed, as has been above mentioned, that a proportion of these cases would be chronic and confirmed; but we should have scarcely anticipated that out of the whole 222 admissions, there were only 12 which appeared to afford much hope of recovery: 31 were complicated with Epilepsy; 29 were affected with Paralysis, whilst 17 were of dirty habits;—of these last named, it is satisfactory to state, that, with two exceptions, both their general health and habits have been considerably improved.

The total number of cases admitted during the year being, as is above reported, from Asylums and Workhouses 222 + 171 recent cases—total, 393; it may be interesting to note the following results of treatment in each of these two classes.

OLD CASES.		RECENT CASES.	
Discharged recovered.....	16	Discharged recovered.....	31
Died.....	33	Died.....	15
Escaped .....	1	Remain .....	125
Remain.....	172		
Total.....	222	Total.....	171



The following Table gives the causes of the several deaths which have occurred:—

TABLE 2.—OBITUARY.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Assigned Cause of Insanity.	Form of Insanity.	Total Duration of Insanity.	In the Asylum.	Cause of Death.
1	F	39	Poverty.	Acute Mania.	6 Weeks.	20 Hours.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
2	F	50	Grief.	Acute Mania.	7 Weeks.	5 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
3	F	25	Disappointment in Love.	Mania.	9 Months.	2 mo. & 2 wk.	Asphyxia (Suicide.)
4	F	49	Pecuniary Losses.	Acute Mania.	2 Weeks.	3 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
5	M	29	Pecuniary Losses.	Dementia.	1 Year.	5 Weeks.	General Paralysis.
6	M	65	Intemperance.	Chronic Mania.	3 Years.	6 Weeks.	Natural Decay.
7	M	41	Unknown.	Dementia.	9 Months.	2 Weeks.	General Paralysis.
8	F	29	Poverty.	Melancholia.	4 Months.	3 Months.	Intus-susceptio.
9	F	19	Fright.	Melancholia.	7 Months.	3 Weeks.	Purpura Hæmorrhagica.
10	F	55	Intemperance.	Dementia.	1 Yr. & 2 mo.	14 Weeks.	General Paralysis.
11	M	45	Intemperance.	Mania.	1 Yr. & 4 mo.	9 Weeks.	Phthisis.
12	M	33	Hereditary.	Inbecility.	9 Years.	14 Weeks.	Gangrene of Right Lung.
13	F	48	Intemperance.	Dementia.	2 Yr. & 3 mo.	9 Weeks.	Erysipelas of Head.
14	M	39	Intemperance.	Dementia.	1 Yr. & 6 mo.	5 Months.	Apoplexy with Paralysis.
15	M	53	Unknown.	Dementia.	2 Yr. & 7 mo.	6 Weeks.	Paralysis.
16	F	32	Domestic Unhappiness.	Acute Mania.	2 Weeks.	7 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
17	F	63	Intemperance.	Acute Mania.	6 Weeks.	4 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
18	F	29	Poverty.	Acute Mania.	5 Weeks.	5 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
19	M	33	Poverty.	Acute Mania.	6 Weeks.	4 Days.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
20	F	25	Domestic Unhappiness.	Acute Mania.	1 Week.	1 Day.	Maniacal Exhaustion.
21	F	64	Unknown.	Chronic Mania.	6 Years.	6 Days.	Natural Decay.
22	F	29	Unknown.	Dementia.	2 Years.	14 Weeks.	General Paralysis.
23	M	62	Intemperance.	Dementia.	2 Years.	1 Month.	Serous Apoplexy.
24	M	55	Unknown.	Epileptic Mania.	2 Years.	8 mo. & 2 wk.	Diarrhoea.
25	M	42	Unknown.	Dementia.	1 Year.	5 Months.	Diarrhoea.
26	M	41	Injury of Head.	Mania.	7 Months.	5 Weeks.	Phthisis.
27	M	57	Poverty.	Melancholia.	4 Months.	14 Weeks.	Diarrhoea.
28	M	42	Intemperance.	Dementia.	1 Year.	6 Months.	Apoplexy with Paralysis.
29	M	44	Intemperance.	Dementia.	3 Years.	9 Weeks.	Paralysis.
30	F	47	Phthisis.	Melancholia.	7 Months.	6 Months.	Phthisis.
31	F	70	Intemperance.	Senile Mania.	4 Years.	9 Months.	Natural Decay.
32	M	50	Intemperance.	Dementia.	3 Years.	4 Months.	Apoplexy with Paralysis.
33	M	45	Intemperance.	Dementia.	5 Months.	4 Weeks.	Paralysis.
34	M	50	Unknown.	Mania.	9 Months.	3 Months.	Paralysis.
35	M	60	Unknown.	Dementia.	1 Yr. & 7 mo.	6 Weeks.	Apoplexy with Paralysis.
36	F	35	Unknown.	Epileptic Mania.	10 Months.	16 Days.	Syncope.
37	F	76	Unknown.	Senile Mania.	5 Years.	10 Months.	Apoplexy.
38	M	35	Intemperance.	Mania.	3 Months.	24 Hours.	Apoplexy.
39	F	63	Unknown.	Dementia.	6 Years.	7 mo. & 2 wk.	Paralysis.
40	M	42	Intemperance.	Dementia.	2 Years.	4 Months.	General Paralysis.
41	F	32	Domestic Unhappiness.	Religious Melancholia.	4 Months.	2 Months.	Phthisis.
42	F	55	Poverty.	Melancholia.	3 Months.	1 Month.	Phthisis.
43	F	46	Unknown.	Melancholia.	1 Yr. & 6 mo.	11 Months.	Phthisis.
44	M	41	Intemperance.	Dementia.	4 Years.	4 Months.	Paralysis.
45	M	40	Intemperance.	Chronic Mania.	1 Yr. & 6 mo.	11 Months.	Chronic Dysentery.
46	M	26	Unknown.	Dementia.	7 Years.	7 mo. & 2 wk.	Phthisis.
47	M	60	Poverty.	Senile Mania.	10 Years.	10 mo. & 2 wk.	Natural Decay.
48	M	40	Unknown.	Dementia.	1 Yr. & 6 mo.	11 Months.	General Paralysis.

The foregoing Table presents the following general results as regards the assigned cause of Insanity in those who have died :—

16 of the cases were ascribed to Intemperance.			
7	”	”	Poverty and its consequences.
3	”	”	Domestic Unhappiness.
2	”	”	Pecuniary Losses.
2	”	”	Grief.
2	”	”	Physical Causes.
1	”	”	Hereditary Predisposition.
1	”	”	Fright.
14	”	”	Unknown.

With the exception of severe Diarrhœa, which made its appearance in August, and proved fatal to several of the inmates, we have not been visited with any sickness of an epidemic or contagious character. Ten of the deaths occurred within one week after the patients' admission into the Asylum, and the greater part within three months. No less than nineteen were cases of general Paralysis or supervening Apoplexy ; seven died from Pulmonary Consumption ; five from the gradual decay of the vital powers ; eight from Maniacal Exhaustion ; and the others from the various causes above specified. There are only three cases which appear to call for particular remark here, and these are numbered 3, 9, and 39, respectively, in the Obituary. Extracts from the histories in the Case-Book will perhaps be the most simple and useful mode of giving them :—

No. 3. F.—A single woman, aged 25, was admitted on the 1st January, 1851 ; had been accustomed to assist in domestic work ; is a Roman Catholic ; of middle stature ; tolerably full habit of body, and of the bilio-lymphatic temperament ; her first attack, its duration stated to be six months, disap-



pointment in some love affair supposed to be the cause; not known whether there is any hereditary predisposition, but she has been subject to Epilepsy from youth. On admission, owing to the Relieving Officer having told her on leaving Haydock Lodge licensed house, that she was going home, and being disappointed, she was exceedingly violent, was put into seclusion for one hour; on the following day she was much more settled, and expressed herself well pleased with the change of residence, and altogether presented a striking contrast to her conduct on the preceding day, working in the ward, and very cheerful.

January 26th.—Since the last notice she has had several epileptic fits, these have been on the average of about fifteen minutes' duration each; has had no return of that violence which characterised her on admission, either before or after the attacks.

February 14th.—Going on favourably, cheerful in temper, obliging in manner, and anxious in every respect to make herself useful. On the night of the 11th instant had a slight fit of epilepsy.

March 5th.—Has not been on the whole so well since last report, having had ten fits, which, without being accompanied by any extraordinary excitement, appear to have given rise to confused notions on ordinary subjects, neglects her useful occupation, and is more variable in temper.

March 13th.—Up to this date she has continued in the state described in the last report. This morning, however, after breakfast, she went to the water-closet, and about 9 a.m. was found there with a portion of the wooden busk of her stays projecting from her mouth, having forced nearly its entire length into the throat. It was broken about the junction of the lower and middle third of the wood. The portion remaining was immediately extracted, and it was at once evident that serious injury had been done to the pharynx and its neighbourhood.

Symptoms of asphyxia speedily showed themselves, from effusion of blood into the air tubes, which were sought to be relieved by laryngotomy; she, however, gradually sank, and died about fifteen minutes past two o'clock in the afternoon.

She never previously exhibited, nor was considered to have any, suicidal tendency. On a post-mortem examination, it was found that the busk had been violently forced through the posterior wall of the pharynx, and for a short distance between it and the vertebral column, breaking up the connecting cellular tissue; the opening into the œsophagus being thus obstructed, the blood flowed from the injured vessels almost directly into the glottis, giving rise to those symptoms which so rapidly followed the injury.

No. 9.—A girl aged 19 years, though her physical conformation did not indicate such an advanced age, was admitted April 5, 1851. Physical health, bad; pulse, 112; eyes sunken; complexion, sallow; tongue, furred with red edges; breath, very offensive; temperament, lymphatic; mental condition, melancholic; is stated to have been insane six months, and assigned cause is fright.

The day after admission, spots like flea-bites were noticed on her arms and legs, and increased slightly in the course of the next day. The skin, on pressure, assumed an ecchymosed appearance, and she was no doubt suffering from *Purpura Hæmorrhagica*, though of a modified character, as, with the exception of a very thin sero-sanguineous oozing from the mouth and nostrils, there was no bloody discharge; very liberal diet, and a combination of mineral and vegetable tonics were persevered in.

To the time of her death, which occurred within three weeks from the day of her admission, she never appeared to undergo the slightest change in her mental state. It may be a question whether the fright received had any effect in producing this condition of the system, or whether it arose from general functional deterioration. On examination after



death, there was in the occipital region a quantity of bloody serum, the dura-mater was studded with petechial spots, as were also the pericardium, pleura, and peritoneum; with this exception, the thoracic and abdominal viscera appeared natural, but it was remarked that both the internal and external organs of generation were in a very imperfectly developed state.

No. 39.—A widow, aged 63 years, was admitted April 4, 1851; was of the middle stature, spare habit of body, and of bilious temperament; bodily health, bad; mental condition, last stage of Dementia; is stated to have been insane five years, and up to the period of the attack, which is the first, is said to have conducted her family affairs in a judicious and creditable manner; never, as far as can be ascertained, having exhibited any lack of mental capacity.

From the time of admission to her death, which occurred November 14, 1851, no perceptible alteration took place in her mental condition. At the examination after death, on removing the calvarium, the membranes having been accidentally ruptured, nearly a pint of fluid escaped, but the quantity was not accurately ascertained. The brain was evidently much diminished in size, and, with its membranes, only weighed twenty-six ounces. The vessels at the base, though somewhat altered in structure, were still pervious. This is one of those cases which is occasionally met with in chronic dementia, and also in paralysis; as, in this instance, besides the unusual amount of sub-arachnoidean fluid, the atrophy was very remarkable, the convolutions being not only reduced in volume, but puckered and indurated. The patient, as might be expected, was during life reduced to a state of vegetative existence, the cerebral functions being nearly obliterated, and the true spinal and ganglionic functions almost alone remaining.

The next Table is interesting, as showing the different Countries to which each Patient admitted belongs :—

TABLE 3.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
English .....	134	118	252
Scotch .....	7	8	15
German .....	1	—	1
Dane .....	1	—	1
Dutch.....	—	1	1
Irish .....	24	52	76
Welsh.....	13	31	44
Manx-man.....	1	—	1
French .....	—	1	1
Italian .....	1	—	1
Total .....	182	211	393

In the preceding Table it will be seen, that nearly one-fifth of our Patients belong to Ireland, and about one-eighth to Wales ; and probably these proportions, though in themselves large, are smaller than might have been expected, considering our neighbourhood to Liverpool.

The number of epileptic cases under treatment during the year has been unusually large, and, from the severe nature of the attacks in several instances, they have been a source of great anxiety to the Medical Officers, as well as to those more immediately in attendance upon them. Being desirous to try all possible alleviatives in such cases, the extract of *Cotyledon umbilicus* was used for a time with much apparent benefit ; but in every instance, after a variable period of quiescence, the attacks reappeared with increased violence. The tincture of Sumbul is now being tried with a like motive ;

but the short period of time that it has been in use will not yet warrant any opinion on its merits.

Table 4 *a* shews the combination of disease with epilepsy, and the Table 4 *b* exhibits the number of epileptic fits occurring during each seven days of the lunar month.

TABLE 4 *a*.

Combination of Epilepsy.	Men.	Women.	Total.
With Mania .....	6	9	15
„ Imbecility .....	20	15	35
„ Dementia.....	8	2	10
„ Idiocy .....	2	2	4
Total .....	36	28	64

TABLE 4 *b*.

	1st Quarter.	Full Moon.	3rd Quarter	New Moon.
Men.....	503	374	426	392
Women ...	192	184	181	198
Total	695	558	607	590

From Table 4 *b* it appears that the greatest number of fits occurred in the first quarter, and the smallest number during the period of full moon; but even did the association of lunar periods with the paroxysms of this disease rest upon more certain grounds than common belief, the small number of cases given above, being the record of only twelve months' experience, can in no way affect the question; and this Table, the first of a series it is hoped to follow out in after years, has merely been given as tending to elucidate a subject not devoid of a certain degree of interest.

The following Table exhibits the social conditions of the Patients admitted during the year 1851 :—



TABLE 5.

State.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Single .....	107	83	190
Married.....	61	96	157
Widowed .....	10	25	35
Unknown .....	4	7	11
Total .....	182	211	393

The several occupations of the Patients admitted during the year 1851, are shown in the next table :—

TABLE 6 a.—WOMEN.

Housewives.....	62	Milliners & Dress-		Lace Worker .....	1
Servants .....	38	makers.....	4	Nurse .....	1
Charwomen.....	12	Schoolmistresses...	3	Waistcoat Maker ..	1
Weavers .....	9	Cooks .....	3	Brush Maker .....	1
House Workers....	7	In a Factory .....	3	Unknown.....	15
Sempstresses .....	6	Hawkers .....	2	None .....	24
Prostitutes .....	6	In a Coal Mine....	1		
Housekeepers .....	6	Ladies' Maid .....	1		
Shopkeepers .....	4	Umbrella Maker...	1	Total.....	211

TABLE 6 b.—MEN.

Labourers .....	33	Miners.....	2	Boatman .....	1
Sailors .....	14	Schoolmasters.....	2	Chairmaker.....	1
Tailors .....	7	Spinners .....	2	Stone Breaker .....	1
Shoemakers.....	7	Bookbinders .....	2	Moulder .....	1
Shopkeepers .....	7	Working at Docks.	2	Ship Carpenter ....	1
Book-keepers .....	6	Agents.....	3	Revenue Officer ...	1
Joiners.....	5	Watchmakers .....	2	Fringe Maker .....	1
Blacksmiths.....	4	Upholsterer.....	1	Comedian .....	1
Colliers .....	4	Cabinetmaker .....	1	Saddler .....	1
Gardeners .....	4	Paviour .....	1	Police Officer .....	1
Weavers .....	4	Tanner .....	1	Engine Tenter ....	1
Soldiers .....	3	Carter .....	1	Sailmaker .....	1
Carriers .....	2	Printer.....	1	Clergyman .....	1
Bricklayers.....	2	Car Proprietor ...	1	Farmer .....	1
Stone Masons .....	2	Organist .....	1	Pawnbroker .....	1
Grooms .....	2	Sawyer .....	1	None .....	18
Wheelwrights .....	2	Law Stationer.....	1	Unknown.....	7
Hawkers .....	2	Carver.....	1		
House Servants ...	2	Baker .....	1		
Warehousemen .....	2	Cooper.....	1	Total.....	182

As an appropriate adjunct to the two preceding Tables, the following extract from the daily account of the state of the Patients is appended:—

TABLE 7.

MEN.							WOMEN.						
EMPLOYED.	TUESDAY 9TH.		WEDNESDAY 10TH.		THURSDAY 11TH.		EMPLOYED.	TUESDAY 9TH.		WEDNESDAY 10TH.		THURSDAY 11TH.	
	Mrn.	Aft.	Mrn.	Aft.	Mrn.	Aft.		Mrn.	Aft.	Mrn.	Aft.	Mrn.	Aft.
Working in the Garden...	9	8	9	9	7	7	Washing .....	25	24	18	23	10	10
„ Land.....	36	37	35	37	37	39	Folding.....	9	8	10	10	10	10
„ Engine house	3	3	3	3	3	3	Mangling .....	4	4	3	3	3	3
Assisting Porter.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	Ironing .....	2	2	5	8	9	9
„ Joiners .....	4	4	4	4	4	4	Needlework .....	26	36	29	29	27	32
„ Plumbers .....	3	3	3	3	3	3	Knitting .....	5	5	5	2	6	5
„ Shoemakers ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	Shoe Binding .....	2	2	2	2	2	2
„ Tailors .....	5	5	5	5	5	5	Cleaners .....	2	...	4	...	6	...
„ Baker.....	1	2	2	1	2	2	Kitchen.....	2	3	5	2	3	3
„ Blacksmith ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	Peeling Potatoes .....	12	11	12	14	14	13
„ Well Sinkers...	3	3	3	3	3	3	Cleaning in the Galleries	12	5	10	12	12	10
„ Bricklayer.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	Making Stocks.....	1	1	1	...	1	1
„ Steward's Office	1	1	1	1	1	1							
Cleaning in the Galleries	11	13	13	12	13	12							
Upholsterer .....	4	4	4	4	5	5							
Total Men employed...	88	91	90	90	91	92	Total Women employed	102	101	104	105	103	98
UNEMPLOYED.							UNEMPLOYED.						
Excitement with Restraint	...	...	...	...	...	...	Excitement with Restraint	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Seclusion	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ „ Seclusion	...	...	1	...	...	...
„ without Seclusion	...	...	...	...	...	...	„ without Seclusion	2	2	2	2	2	...
Sick .....	4	4	6	6	6	6	Sick .....	2	2	1	1	3	3
Quiet .....	31	28	26	26	25	24	Quiet .....	48	49	46	45	46	53
Total Men unemployed	35	32	32	32	31	30	Total Women unemployed	52	53	50	48	51	56
Admissions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	Admissions .....	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths and Discharges ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Deaths and Discharges ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL MEN .....	123		123		123		TOTAL WOMEN .....	154		154		154	

The occupations of the Patients prior to their admission to the Asylum being thus shown (Table 6 *a* and *b*), and also



their daily employment subsequently (Table 7), it will not be out of place to add here a list of articles made and repaired by the Attendants, Nurses, and Patients during the year.

TABLE 8.

ARTICLES MADE BY WOMEN.	ARTICLES MADE BY WOMEN.	ARTICLES MADE BY WOMEN.	REPAIRS BY WOMEN.
552 Pillow Cases 113 Sheets 250 Counterpanes 250 Bonnet Strings 300 Dusters 400 Neckkerchiefs 420 Pocket Handkerchiefs 203 Night Gowns 158 Shifts 14 Shrouds 237 Day Caps 339 Night Caps 274 Dresses 392 Aprons	332 Flannel Petticoats 181 Ditto Shifts 12 Ditto Bedgowns 6 Ditto Gowns 67 Ditto Shirts 80 Table Cloths 12 Tray ditto 24 Table Napkins 256 Shirts 1085 Towels 24 Pairs Stockings knit- ted 120 Pairs Shoes bound 59 Stocks made	8 Dust Sheets 8 Clothes Bags 200 Window Blinds 126 Window Curtains 14 Bed Curtains 81 Vallances 6 Ticking Dresses 2 Ditto Shects 2 Sets Baby Linen 54 Dish Cloths 48 Iron Moulders 70 House Cloths	600 Pairs of Stockings 150 Shirts 100 Shifts 50 Night Gowns 50 Petticoats 200 Caps 460 Flannel Shirts 480 Ditto Drawers 20 Sheets 100 Night Caps 150 Petticoats 200 Aprons 250 Dresses 50 Pairs of Stays
ARTICLES MADE BY MEN.	ARTICLES MADE BY MEN.	REPAIRS BY MEN.	REPAIRS BY MEN.
116 Jackets 103 Waistcoats 102 Trousers 115 Caps 12 Stocks 108 Carpets Bound	3 Bed Covers 37 Pairs Men's Shoes 191 Ditto Women's Shoes 39 Mattresses (Cair) 38 Pillows do. 6 Cair Rope Mats	202 Jackets 97 Waistcoats 557 Pairs of Trowsers 67 Caps 82 Stocks 23 Carpets	138 Pairs Men's Shoes 44 Ditto Women's Shoes

In addition to the amount of work just given, it may be mentioned that Carpenters, Wheelwrights, Plumbers, Blacksmiths, Bricklayers, and other mechanics, are constantly employed.

From the above Table it will be seen, that one of the leading features in the treatment pursued in this Asylum is the *occupation* of the inmates; and that such is the only humane and common-sense method of dealing with insanity in most of its varied forms, is now too well established a fact to need



*much* comment. Patients who before their admission had stubbornly refused employment, and had been in the constant habit of passing their time either smoking in gloomy airing-courts, destroying their clothes, or annoying their fellow-patients, are now actively engaged in occupation, respectful in their demeanour, and cleanly in their persons and habits; and, as a necessary consequence, are proportionably happy in themselves, and a comfort instead of a nuisance to those around them.

One poor girl, who for upwards of two years had been kept in constant restraint by a strait-waistcoat, and who, from a peculiar ferocity of disposition which she manifested, was considered a most dangerous lunatic, being freed from all restraint *immediately* on her admission here (which is the invariable rule observed in this Asylum), and having been treated with much patient perseverance in the use of milder and more rational means, has become a useful assistant in the work of the establishment, for some time having been employed in the wash-house, which she only left in consequence of a tendency to pulmonary disease, and being now daily occupied in needlework, or helping in the ordinary work of the gallery.

Another case admitted in September 1851, was securely bound by an ordinary cart-rope, the removal of which gave no little trouble from the complexity of its attachments, a strait-waistcoat and a pair of transport leg chains completing the arrangement for the poor fellow's torture. He also was described as a most dangerous lunatic; yet in the afternoon of the day of his arrival he was working on the farm with his fellow-patients, and has not been absent from employment a single day since that period.

Facts such as these should serve to engender in us a mixed spirit of caution and resolution—of caution, not to pronounce hastily upon even the most apparently hopeless case—of resolution, to leave no means untried, no energy unexercised,

either for the recovery of the curable, or for ameliorating the condition of those who are really beyond a cure.

Occupation, as we have already stated, is our chief remedial agent; but even this, valuable though it be, frequently requires great judgment in its application. Care must especially be taken not unduly to call into action, in the first instance, powers which have perhaps for years been dormant, and in all cases to endeavour as much as possible to give labour the appearance of a favour granted, rather than of a task imposed. One great object is so to select the employment that it may have a tendency to improve alike the mental and physical condition of the patient; and there are certainly no employments more generally adapted to meet the ends required, than horticultural and agricultural pursuits. In this respect we are most fortunately situated, having, in addition to the work invariably attendant upon all new buildings, a space of 35 acres,\* which is set apart principally for kitchen-gardens, a moderate portion being reserved for ornamental and farm purposes. But suitable and timely amusements, we need scarcely say, are almost equally necessary with proper employments, for the class of persons committed to our care. Accordingly, we have endeavoured to provide for the one as well as the other.

In summer, after the completion of the ordinary business of the day, the cricket-field was the favourite resort, and the good effect of this healthful exercise was apparent in many instances, and in one the recovery was mainly attributable to the cheerful spirit of emulation excited by joining in this manly exercise. During the winter, opportunity was afforded, on the opening of new wards, to impress a salutary feeling on the mind, by proving to those present that there were still connecting links between them and the world without.

\* The extent of the estate is about 50 acres, but as the building and pleasure grounds alone occupy 15 of this, we have only the quantity above specified for working purposes.



At these times, tea-parties were given by the occupants of the ward, and a part of the officers of the Asylum were their invited guests. The earnestness of spirit with which the arrangements were carried out was, as may be well conceived, exceedingly gratifying to the partakers of their hospitality.

On the occasion of the late visit of her Majesty, when she alighted at Rainhill, the women patients were actively employed, under the superintendence of the matron, in the formation of artificial flowers for the decoration of the triumphal arch, and the men, under the direction of the gardener, in dressing it with evergreens. About fifty of the men and women patients were placed on the line of route, and expressed themselves highly gratified at being allowed the opportunity of seeing and welcoming their Queen. On two other occasions special in-door amusements have been provided for them; one of them being the engagement of an illustrator of negro life and song, accompanied with the tricks of a highly trained dog; and the other the performance of a professor of the magic art. On each occasion, although there were upwards of one hundred and forty patients present, nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the evening, or to call up any but gratifying feelings at having, at so little cost and trouble, afforded innocent enjoyment to so many.

One more Table will be submitted to show the state of education and religious views of the inmates of the Asylum:—

TABLE 9.

Read and Write .....	110	Protestants .....	225
Read only .....	84	Roman Catholics .....	72
Neither Read nor Write .....	92		
Unknown .....	11		

Under this head an opportunity is afforded, which I gladly embrace, for adverting to the importance and great desirable-



ness of establishing, in connection with County Asylums, some separate provision for a class of patients, who, in rank of life and habits, are much above the class properly entitled to the relief afforded by these institutions, but who, from reverse of fortune or other circumstances, are reduced to the same level, and, when afflicted with insanity, are obliged to be mixed indiscriminately with those whose forced society must of itself be a great aggravation of their misfortune.

We have had, and still have, in our own Asylum, some persons who answer to this description, whom it is painful to see obliged to associate with those much inferior in position, education, and refinement of feeling. To meet the necessities and provide for the comfort of such a class of patients, an admirable plan has been adopted in connection with the Stafford County Asylum, of which my space will not allow a full explanation, but which is well worth the special attention of any lover of humanity whose mind has been directed to these subjects.

With a view to afford to those of our patients, who are capable of it, the means of educational improvement, a school has been opened in one of the wards, and is intended to be continued on two evenings in the week during the winter season. By this plan it is hoped that some may be taught to read and write, who are at present unable to do so; and that others who have already learned a little may attain to greater proficiency.

As a reference is made in the above Tables to the state of religious views among the Patients, it should be here mentioned that an increase of church accommodation is greatly needed, the present church not affording sufficient room for more than two-thirds of the patients who might otherwise attend Divine Service every Sabbath day.

The Commissioners in Lunacy during the past year have twice inspected this Asylum; their reports are as follows:—

“ COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, RAINHILL,  
*April 14, 1851.*

“ We have this day visited and inspected the above Establishment, and have seen all the patients placed under care and treatment in it.

“ The Asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st January, 1851, since which period 220 patients have been admitted. Within the same period five patients have been discharged recovered, and six others are now recommended for discharge. Since the opening of the Asylum seven patients have died, the cause of death being general paralysis, exhaustion, natural decay, suffocation, and maniacal excitement, respectively.

“ There are now 208 patients in the house, namely, 88 males, and 120 females. We have to-day seen the whole of them. At the time of our visit they were, with one or two exceptions, in a tranquil and contented state. They appear to us to be in good bodily health; and we consider their present orderly condition mainly attributable to the improved accommodation and treatment of which they have had the benefit since their admission into the Rainhill Asylum.

“ The various galleries and apartments occupied by the patients were remarkably clean, and, with the exception of a smell of gas, were free from any offensive odour.

“ Efforts are made to induce the patients to enter on various occupations, and we understand that all the arrangements made by the Superintendent, are designed with a view of carrying out a general system of occupation among the inmates, which when brought into full operation will, we have no doubt, be attended with good results. The bedding we found of excellent quality, remarkably clean and abundant. We did not observe any contrivances or arrangements of the bedsteads or bedding as anticipating dirty habits among the patients; and we understand that the improved provision and attention have produced the most satisfactory results. We understand that no patient has been placed under any species of mechanical



restraint, and we are informed that no instruments intended for this purpose are in the Establishment.

“A valuable addition has been presented to the library by one of the visiting Justices, and we are glad to learn that several conveniences suitable to the sick and infirm, are about to be provided.

“Considering the short time the house has been opened, we think it in a very creditable state.

“S. GASKELL, } *Commissioners in*  
 “J. W. MYLNE, } *Lunacy.”*

“COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, RAINHILL,  
 14th October, 1851.

“Since the Commissioners’ last visit in April, 94 patients have been admitted into this Asylum; during the same period, 30 patients have been discharged, of whom 25 were recovered, and 26 have died. At present the Asylum contains 244 patients, of whom 113 are males and 131 are females. We have to-day inspected every part of the Establishment, and seen all the patients, who were without exception tranquil and orderly, and no one was in seclusion or under mechanical restraint—such restraint, indeed, is never employed.

“The patients are at present in a healthy state; but a short time ago Diarrhœa prevailed to a considerable extent, and proved fatal in several cases. Great progress has been made in carrying out a general system of occupation, and we learn that at present full five-sixths are regularly occupied. The result appears to be most satisfactory, and the orderly demeanour of the patients, and the total absence of all signs of restraint in the wards, is highly gratifying; indeed, the condition of the whole Establishment is very creditable to the Superintendent and the other officers who, under him, are engaged in its management. We have signed and examined the several books, and made the various enquiries directed by the statute.

“W. G. CAMPBELL, } *Commissioners in*  
 “T. TURNER, } *Lunacy.”*



In this Report I have purposely refrained from making any remarks on the subject—a most important one—of the detention of criminal lunatics in County Asylums; but, as this is likely soon to become the subject of legislation, I would respectfully urge upon the Committee the advantage of making some representation to her Majesty's Home Secretary, of the necessity existing for some separate Asylum for this class of lunatics.

I am thankful, in closing my report of the first year's proceedings of our Institution, to be able to bear testimony to the readiness, energy, and zeal, which I have uniformly found in the officers and servants employed in the care of the patients in the Asylum.

My especial thanks are due to the Rev. Joseph Bush, our chaplain, for the cordiality with which he has seconded, in his department, my views as to the treatment of the Insane, and for his judicious administration of religious counsel and comfort to the patients; nor would I forget gratefully to acknowledge the valuable services which have been rendered me by Mr. Owen, the house surgeon, whose unvaried kindness, diligent attention to the duties of his office, and high professional skill, have materially aided me in the task of organizing and conducting a new Asylum.

THOMAS ECCLESTON,  
*Surgeon-Superintendent.*

RAINHILL, near PRESCOT,  
January 6, 1852.



## A P P E N D I X.

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WITH a view to elucidate the Lithograph plan accompanying this Report, it is thought desirable to append a brief description, explanatory of the building, both as to its external and internal arrangements.

### MATERIALS OF BUILDING.

It must be premised, that the ground selected as the site is formed of red sandstone; thus affording a firm and dry foundation, as well as a good supply of available building materials. This sandstone has been used as an outside facing to the whole of the structure, the inside being lined throughout with brick. By this means a substantial and durable building has been secured; whilst at the same time a good external appearance has been given to it.

### STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE.

The "Modern Italian Style" of architecture has been adopted as the one most suitable for this Asylum, particularly as regards the elevation, to which it was desirable to raise the six shafts, for the purpose of carrying out a general plan of ventilation.



### ARRANGEMENT OF BUILDING.

The building consists of four detached blocks, and a centre or main building, with a wing running from each side of it. The centre, or main building, consists of the Superintendent's house, Committee room, Officers' apartments, and the Recreation hall.

### FRONT ASPECT.

The front aspect of the building is nearly due south. One wing and two of the detached blocks on the eastern side, being appropriated to the women; the remaining wing and two blocks on the western side, for the men.

### PLEASURE GROUNDS.

The pleasure grounds are open and cheerful; and, from the elevated position of the Asylum, an extensive view of the surrounding country is obtained from each of them. Being separated from the adjoining fields by a sunk fence, the great advantage is gained, that no obstruction is offered to the view; and the appearance of confinement within its walls is very much diminished.

The upper wards communicate with their respective pleasure grounds by means of a separate staircase, thus avoiding the inconvenient necessity of passing through the ward below.

### WARMING AND VENTILATION.

The warming and ventilating of the building is carried on

principally by means of open fireplaces, in addition to which there is a hot water apparatus on each side.

The air, as it becomes impure, is taken up by flues near the ceiling, and thence into the main horizontal ones, passing above the corridors into the towers. At the mouth of the great horizontal flues, and on a level with the roof, are placed furnaces which, by raising the temperature, rarifies the air, so causing an uninterrupted current and a constant change of atmosphere throughout the entire building. The furnaces above referred to also heat the water in the tanks for the use of the baths, &c.

#### WINDOWS AND SASHES.

The arrangement of the windows and sashes throughout the Establishment, also assists in the ventilation. They open five and a half inches, top and bottom, by the same motion; this is effected by two small cog-wheels, and racks fixed to each sash, forming a simple and durable arrangement.

The sashes are wooden, and of the ordinary domestic size and shape.

#### FLOORING.

The whole of the flooring throughout the building is formed of wood. The timbers of the corridors and day-rooms are entirely disunited from any of the other wood-work, and the doorways have solid stone sills, thus forming a secure and perfect separation of destructible material at each end. There is also in the entrance passage of each gallery a fire-plug, with a sufficient length of hose attached, to be made available at any moment, upon any point of the gallery at which it might be required.

## BATHS.

Each ward is supplied with hot, cold, shower baths, a lavatory, two water-closets and a slop-room, which are situated at one end of the gallery, and in immediate proximity to each other.

## KITCHEN.

The kitchen is two stories in height, centrally placed, and is surrounded by numerous offices, such as the general stores, steward's office, bakehouse, bread-room, larder, dairy, potato store, scullery, &c.

The whole of the cooking is carried on by means of two gas stoves and several boilers, supplied with steam from the engine house. The gas stoves will easily cook for from two hundred and fifty to three hundred persons, forming a convenient and economical apparatus for the purpose. From each of the detached blocks and wings there is a basement passage, communicating with separate serving-places on each side of the kitchen.

## WORKSHOPS.

Numerous workshops are provided for the different trades and occupations; such as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, painters, plumbers and glaziers, tinmen, upholsterers, &c.

## ENGINE, GAS-HOUSE.

In a convenient position, at the back of the building, are placed the engine-house, gas-works, and smithy. Of gas a



sufficient quantity is manufactured on the premises, both for cooking purposes and for the supply of above nine hundred lights, which are used in the establishment.

The steam-engine, which is of ten-horse power, is principally employed pumping water out of the well, and forcing it into large iron tanks, situated in each tower; it also drives a circular saw. The boiler is of twenty-horse, high pressure, the surplus steam being used for heating the water in the tanks for washing, and also for cooking purposes.

The engineer's department has been so arranged, that one man, with the assistance of a stoker and three patients, can do all that is required for the supply of gas, water, &c., to the entire building.

### WATER WELL.

The whole Asylum is abundantly supplied with water, an analysis of which is subjoined.

One gallon imperial, or 70,000 grains of the water, contains—

	Grains.
Sulphate of Lime .....	1·3
Do. Magnesia.....	2·5
Chloride of do.....	1·5
Do. of Calcium.....	·6
Chloride of Sodium.....	3·6
Earthy Phosphates, containing Iron.....	1·8
Silica .....	·5
Organic Matter .....	·3

### CHAPEL.

The chapel is detached, being placed in front of the centre

building. In it there is a sitting-room for 130 patients and attendants, allowing 20 inches for each individual.

### DRAINS.

The drains are divided into three sections—1st, those which contain the general sewerage of the establishment, carried into a closely covered manure tank; 2d, those which carry off the surface water, these empty themselves independently; and 3d, those which convey the water off the roofs, and is collected at a sufficiently high level to enable it at once to be led to the washing troughs and sinks, for domestic purposes.

### LAND FOR CULTIVATION.

The estate consists of nearly 50 acres of land, 15 of which are occupied by the building and pleasure grounds, the remaining 35 acres being intended to be appropriated for the growth of potatoes, and market garden purposes generally.

## INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE ASYLUM.

[illegible]



# LANCASTER COUNTY ASYLUM, RAINHILL.—ORDINARY DIET.

DAYS OF THE WEEK	BREAKFAST.						DINNER.						SUPPER.					
	MEN.			WOMEN.			MEN.			WOMEN.			MEN.			WOMEN.		
	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Butter.	Coffee.	Bread.	Coffee.	Uncooked Meat.	Vegetables.	Pie.	Irish Stew.	Hot Pot.	Bread.	Beer.	Bread.	Tea.	Butter.	Tea.	Butter.
SUNDAY .....	6	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 pt.	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	7 oz.	2 lb.	...	...	...	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6 oz.	1 pt.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
MONDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
TUESDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	14 oz.	...	3 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
WEDNESDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	...	14 oz.	3 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6 oz.	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
THURSDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	7 oz.	2 lb.	...	...	...	3 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6 oz.	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
FRIDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	1 lb.	...	...	1 lb.	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	6 oz.	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
SATURDAY .....	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	4 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	14 oz.	...	3 oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	...	...	...	$\frac{2}{3}$ pt.	$\frac{1}{3}$ oz.
TOTAL .....	42	9	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	28	$4\frac{2}{3}$	21 $\frac{1}{3}$	4	2	2	1	20	3	12	3	14	15	28

N. B.—Tea to be made in the following proportions, viz.:—Tea 6 oz., Sugar 18 oz., Water 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallons, and Milk 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallons. Coffee to be made in the following proportions, viz. —Coffee 12 oz., Chicory 2 oz., Sugar 18 oz., Water 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallons, and Milk 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  gallons. Irish Stew, Hot Pot, and Pies, to be made with part or whole of the liquor from the meat cooked on the previous day, and to contain 4 oz. of Meat for each patient.

EXTRA.—Out-door Workers and Artisans to have  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of Beer at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.  
Artisans occupied at their trades, and living in the building appropriated to them, to have a portion of Plain Pudding every day, in addition to their ordinary Dinner.

Laundry-women to have  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of Beer, 2 oz. of Bread, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Cheese, at 11 a.m. Kitchen and Bakehouse women to have 1 pint of Beer extra daily.